cottage sector contributes more than 50% of Industrial employment in the country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Promotion of small and cottage industries for increasing the employment opportunities is one of the accepted policies of the Government. An outlay of Rs. 4,304 crore has been provided in the ninth Five Year Plan to the Ministry of SSI & ARI for development and promotion of small & cottage industries. At the Centra! level, Small Industries Development Organisaiton has been running a large number of schemes for promotion of SSI sector; these includes technology upgradation, market development, infrastructural development, entrepreneurship development and dissemination of inormation. Credit to SSI sector is provided through Small Industries Developmnt Bank of India, State Financial Corporations, commercial banks etc. Similarly, the Khadi & Village Industries Commission works for the promotion of Khadi & Village Industries with a package of assistance covering finance, training, marketing, R&D etc.

A special scheme of employment generation called, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for educated unemployed youth was launched in Oct., 1993.

(b) Does not arise in view of (b) & (c) above.

Separate Policy for Expansion of Small Scale industry

†883. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased lo state:

(a) whether Government are considering to implement a separate policy for the expansion and development of small scale mini industries of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have so far taken any action to hand over the responsibility of formulating policy for this sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Policy measures already exist for promoting and strengthening Small, Tiny and Village Enterprises, which were announced by the Government on 6th August 1991. However, Government continues to lay emphasis on meeting the concerns of small & tiny enterprises.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sick SSIs of Gujarat

884. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many of the Small Scale Industries Units in Gujarat are closing down or becoming sick day by day;

(b) if so, the number of such SSIs during the last three years;

(c) what action Government propose to take to prevent such closure or sickness of SSIs in Gujarat; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the banks are denying working capital requirements of such SSIs which cause closure or sickness of SSIs in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the data compiled by the Reserve Bank of Indis (RBI), the sickness in Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in Gujarat for the last three years is given below:—

As at the end of	Number of Units
March, 1997	6510
March, 1998	6808
March, 1999	4170

(c) and (d) The Government is fully seized of the incidence of